

# The Coverts Project In Connecticut

A FOREST WILDLIFE EDUCATION PROGRAM



## Covert:



*A word that describes a thicket which provides a sheltering cover for wildlife. A word that appropriately names a special educational program of the UConn Cooperative Extension System. Since 1983, the **Coverts Project** has been reaching out to Connecticut's individual woodland owners and teaching them how sound management practices can make wildlife healthier, more diverse and more abundant.*

## Education Through Demonstration

Dozens of privately-owned **Coverts Project** demonstration forests around Connecticut are actively managed to show how good forest management and conservation practices can:

1. Earn the woodland owner a long term financial return, and
2. Improve the diversity, health and productivity of the forest and the wildlife that live in it.



One of these habitat demonstration areas, the "Sam Yankee Forest," is used as an outdoor classroom during our annual, in-depth **Coverts Project** training seminar and follow-up workshops. Each year, a select group of 30 woodland and/or environmentally concerned individuals are accepted to participate in the three-day training seminar, held at the Great Mountain Forest in Norfolk, Connecticut. There they learn about different types of Connecticut forests and about where, how and why they grow as they do. They learn about different wildlife species, their needs and how to provide for them. They learn about the many natural resource professionals and organizations available to help them, and how to put this knowledge to work on their own woodland.

To learn more about the **Coverts Project** or to apply to become a Cooperator, simply complete the attached form, add a stamp and put it in the mail. We'll send you an application packet right away.

I am interested in becoming a Coverts Project Cooperator.  
Please send me more information and an application.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_



## Coverts Project Cooperators

The seminar (meals, lodging, training and reference materials), periodic follow-up workshops and *Coverts Project Newsletter* are free to participants. All costs are paid for by the program sponsors.

In exchange, participants agree to volunteer as **Coverts Project Cooperators**, returning to their communities and sharing what they've learned with others. Specifically, cooperators agree:

1. To develop a sound forest and wildlife stewardship plan for their own woodland and/or for a woodland which they are involved in managing;
2. To maintain, for at least one year, an up-to-date set of reference materials (provided by the **Coverts Project**) and be available to answer questions other landowners have; and
3. To make an active effort to reach out to and motivate other woodland owners in their community.

Through this network of informed individuals, thousands of landowners are learning about and beginning to practice sound forest and wildlife conservation.

## Breaking a Cycle of Abuse and Neglect

For over 300 years, Connecticut's forests have been cutover, burned and otherwise abused for human profit. Decades of neglect have alternated with intense periods of indiscriminate cutting and abuse. Poor health and productivity, and loss of wildlife species have been the result. Today, rapid development and land fragmentation, as well as poor cutting practices, continue to threaten our forest and wildlife resources.



## Will You Join Us?

Each spring, woodland owners and others who care for wooded properties are invited to apply for one of the 30 slots available in the annual September seminar. We look for people who are, or who have the potential to be, informal educators in their communities. People to whom others will come when they have questions about forest or wildlife. People who can find time in their busy schedules for the seminar and some volunteer activities during the coming year. People who would like their own woodland to be healthy and productive. People who care about Connecticut's forests and the wildlife that live in them.



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SYSTEM  
*College of Agriculture and Natural Resources*



PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

### COVERTS PROJECT

UConn Cooperative Extension  
Middlesex County Extension Center  
1066 Saybrook Road, Box 70  
Haddam, Connecticut 06438-0070